

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) Endoscopic intubation system, in particular for babies or very small children, comprising:

an endotracheal tube having an inner diameter;

an endoscope, comprising:

a rigid shaft having a proximal and a distal end, said shaft ~~being substantially rigid and~~ having a rigid preformed shape with an outer diameter less than 2.5 mm and smaller than said inner diameter of said tube, so that said tube can be slid onto said shaft, the preformed shape of said shaft being at least partially curved, ~~and said shaft~~ having a continuously curved portion extending from said distal end and extending along the length of the shaft to a transition point, and a straight portion extending along the length of the shaft from the transition point to the proximal end.

2. (original) The intubation system of claim 1, wherein a radius of curvature of said curved portion of said shaft is approximately constant.

3. (original) The intubation system of claim 1, wherein said curved portion of said shaft extends over at least two thirds of the entire length of said shaft.

4. (original) The intubation system of claim 1, wherein a straight portion follows said continuously curved portion, upon which an adapter is arranged for fixing said tube on said shaft.

5. (original) The intubation system of claim 4, wherein said adapter is axially shiftable and lockable on said shaft.

6. (previously amended) The intubation system of claim 1, wherein an adapter is arranged on the straight portion of said shaft for fixing said tube on said shaft and wherein said adapter comprises a connector for connecting an air supply hose.

7. (previously amended) The intubation system of claim 1, wherein said outer diameter of said shaft is smaller than said inner diameter of said tube, such that an air gap remains between said shaft and said tube.

8. (original) The intubation system of claim 1, wherein a video camera is arranged at said proximal end of said shaft, through which an enlarged endoscopic image can be obtained.

9. (original) The intubation system of claim 8, wherein said video camera is connected to said endoscope through a coupling and is removable therefrom.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously amended) The intubation system of claim 1, wherein said outer diameter of said shaft is about 2 mm.

12. (currently amended) An endoscopic intubation system comprising:

an endotracheal tube;

an endoscope having a ~~substantially~~ rigid preformed shaft, said shaft having a rigid preformed shape including a curved portion extending from a distal end of the shaft and extending along a length of the shaft to a transition point, and a straight portion extending along a length of the shaft from the transition point to a proximal end of the shaft, the shaft having an outer diameter less than 2.5 mm and insertable into said endotracheal tube; and

an adapter located on the straight portion of the shaft for connecting said endotracheal tube to the shaft.

13. (new) The endoscopic intubation system according to claim 12 wherein said adapter is axially moveable on the shaft.

14. (new) The endoscopic intubation system according to claim 12 wherein said adapter is lockable on the shaft.

15. (new) An endoscopic intubation system comprising:

an endotracheal tube having an inner diameter;

an endoscope having a rigid preformed shaft with an outer diameter less than 2.5 mm and smaller than the inner diameter of said tube so that said tube can be slid onto the shaft, the rigid preformed shape of said shaft being at least partially curved having a continuously curved portion extending from a distal end and extending along the length of the shaft to a transition point, and a straight portion extending along the length of the shaft from the transition point to a proximal end.